Remarks

The present Preliminary Amendment cancels claims 21, 22, and 91-97, amends claims 39, 82, and 86, and add claims 98 and 99.

Claim 39 has been amended to depend from claim 49 rather than claim 38. The amendment provides antecedent basis for the phrase "solid organ", and the original dependency of claim 39 on claim 38 was an obvious error. The amendment is supported at p. 36, line 30 – p. 37, line 6 (paragraph 117) and elsewhere in the specification. Claim 82 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 86 is dependent on claim 85, which recites a method, but original claim 86 recited a composition. Claim 86 has been amended to correct this obvious error and now recites a method, consistent with its dependence on claim 85.

New claims 98 and 99 depend from claims 81 and 84, respectively, and recite that the RNAi-inducing entity comprises a modified nucleotide. Support is found at p. 19, line 32 – p, 21, line 10 (paragraphs 73-75) and elsewhere in the specification.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of this case. Should any questions arise in connection with this Preliminary Amendment, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the phone number listed below.

It is believed that no fee is due in association with this Preliminary Amendment. However, if there are any fees associated with this matter, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 03-1721.

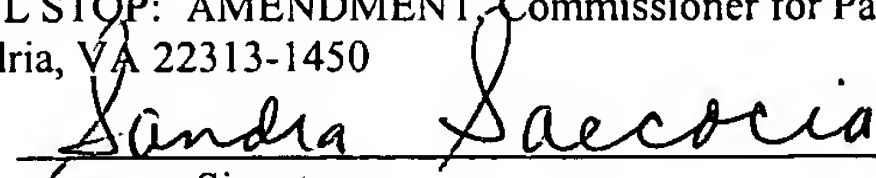Respectfully submitted,

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